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The
Urgency of the Call
from
The Sudan

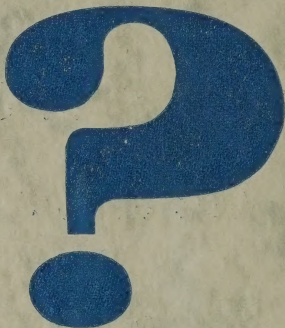
By
Rev. Monro Gibson, D.D.

SUDAN UNITED MISSION

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Sudan United Mission

CHRIST OR MOHAMMED?



CROSS OR CRESCENT?

Object :

TO win for Christ the heathen nations of the Sudan, numbering many millions, who are rapidly going over to Mohammedanism, for the lack of Christian workers

The Urgency of the call from the Sudan

By REV. J. MONRO GIBSON, D.D.

*Address at the Annual Meeting of the Sudan
United Mission, Exeter Hall, May, 1907.*

I do not know whether you all have the advantage of reading the "Light-bearer"—that delightful magazine; so delightful because it is so little. We never have the time to go through the long Missionary Magazines, but we read this one because it is so full of interest. It has been so ably edited, so lovingly done, by dear Mrs. Kumm. My introduction to this work was exactly the same as Dr. Horton's, and I got

precisely the same impression from it. I remember all the details of that first visit. The first time I met her I was charmed by her personality, as I was charmed by her story, which filled me with the deepest interest for the field she represented. I was ashamed of my ignorance and that I knew so little about it. I had no idea that the field was so immense, I had no idea of what was going on. She edited this magazine with just the same charm which attracted one so in personal dealings with her. There was an indescribable touch which only she seemed to be able to give. I want to congratulate my friend, Dr. Kumm, on the continuance of this magazine.

I will not say that we do not miss some of the touches which charmed us so before ; but it is still full of interest, still ably edited, and I hope you will all get it regularly in order that you may know what is being done for the great land of the Sudan. I should

like to refer also to Dr. Kumm's own book on the Sudan, published recently at the cost of 3s. 6d., and those who wish to know more about the work should lose no time in possessing themselves of a copy.

Ever since that first visit of Mrs. Kumm I have had the conviction that whilst there are calls from all directions, Macedonian calls from all parts of the world, there was never a time when a call came with such tremendous urgency as the one which now comes to us from the Sudan. There are of course some most pressing calls upon our time and attention. I do not forget the wonderful awakening in China, the coming of Japan right to the front of the nations of the world, the unrest in India, the seething condition of Russia. There are also pressing calls from other parts of Africa. But I think it is the fact that there are these millions of people in this vast region of the Sudan which makes this work

One of the most urgent tasks before the Church of Christ at the present time.

Let me bring before you what came to me as news when I first saw Mrs. Kumm. I used to think that the Sudan was a region on the upper portion of the Nile. My thoughts did not go beyond that Sudan which I think is in the minds of most people. I observed with interest the correspondence which passed between Mrs. Kumm and Dr. Barnardo. Mrs. Kumm had published a statement that there were eighty millions of people in that land. Dr. Barnardo wrote to her, 'My dear friend, are you not mistaken? I believe that the latest reports state that there are only about one-and-a-half millions in that region. Surely you are making a mistake.' Mrs. Kumm replied, 'My dear Dr. Barnardo, I enjoyed your letter exceedingly. Will you allow me to publish it in order to show the idea so many people have about the extent of the Sudan.' This

brought a letter from Dr. Barnardo, 'By all means publish the letter. Publish my ignorance if you can only help forward the kingdom of God.' What is the truth of the matter? It is this, that the Sudan we so often think of is the Egyptian Sudan, a very small portion of the whole. In the Egyptian Sudan there are only about two millions, according to the Statesman's Manual. In regard to the Sudan which is brought before us to-night, the estimates vary as to the exact population. There are certainly fifty millions, some people say that there are as many as one hundred millions. I think, however, we may take eighty millions as a moderate estimate of the population of that region. It stretches nearly across a whole continent. It is almost as large as a whole continent. The Sudan embraces a territory which is as large as the whole of Europe, excepting Russia; and if you leave Russia out, you have to put in Algiers and Morocco in order to make up the

extent of the Sudan. And here is the urgency of the case—it is true that India is not so large as the Sudan, and the populations of both India and China are very much more than in the Sudan—but remember the very few workers in the Sudan to-day. There are, I think, about fifty missionaries all told in the region about which we are thinking, whereas there are hundreds, if not thousands, of missionaries in India.

We have only just begun work in the Sudan.

It is more or less a waste field at present,

with only a station here and there amongst all the millions who have to be reached. Then we have to remember how the Mohammedan power has been broken. But while they no longer carry on military raids, they are nevertheless making great and rapid strides in the way of proselytizing the people, and with extensive success. From

what I have read about the matter I learn that these heathen people in the regions we are trying to reach are most easy to convert when they can be approached in their paganism, but that they are most difficult to convert to Christianity when once they have become Mohammedans. Those who have read Mohammedan history will agree that this is so.

Here are these great populations ready to receive the Gospel. They have not come from a Mohammedan stock. They have impressionable natures.

We want to win them for Christ, and we appeal to you for your help. But we must be swift, or we shall be too late. Mohammedanism will have won, and the door will be shut against us. Perhaps all of you do not know that Northern Nigeria came under the Protectorate of Great Britain as recently as January, 1900, and the most extraordinary progress had been made. It

has been under the administration of Sir Frederick Lugard for seven years. I saw an article in the "Times" some time ago which called attention to the wonderful development of the country. To take just one point in the history of that development, we find that those awful slave raids which so vexed the soul and broke the heart of Livingstone have ceased. Speaking generally, there are no such raids now. They have been stopped, I understand. There seems to be some question as to the entire abolition of slavery, but it is a fact that these slave caravans do not travel now in the day time. They dare not do it. Those that still remain travel in the night. There are but few of them, and they are becoming fewer and fewer still. We have been wishing to

**Build a Slaves' Home as a memorial to
dear Mrs. Kumm.**

We have been encouraged to do so in the highest quarters. But we have to face the

fact that the abolition of slavery is proceeding so fast that there is less and less need for such an institution. It is very likely that if we establish this Slaves' Home to look after the slaves who are rescued by the Mission, the time will come at no very distant date when we shall no longer have to use it for this purpose, but be able to turn it into an educational centre, or use it for industrial purposes. That will be a very admirable use, and I am sure we shall all praise GOD if, a little later on, we are able to change our Slaves' Home into something else simply because there are no more slaves to look after. Still we must look after our poor slaves as long as it is necessary. It is terrible to read the stories of these poor creatures. I wonder how many of you have read of "our Tom," a lad of about seventeen years of age. It is pitiable to read the story of that poor boy. Our friends brought him home, and he is now being trained for evangelistic service.

He is one of the brightest boys you ever saw.

Someone has said there is no reason why

The country should not become a second Uganda.

I think there are all the elements not only for a second Uganda but for a far greater Uganda. It is worth while to compare the two countries. Nigeria is three times the size of Uganda. It has twice the population, whilst there are seventeen provinces in Nigeria and only five in Uganda. We have a greater field and quite as much promise considering the short time we have been at work. Dr. Kumm started work there in August, 1904, and, considering what a short time has elapsed since then, I think we have every reason to thank GOD for the blessing He has given us. We think of the history of other missions and remember that the work has gone on for perhaps ten, twenty, thirty, or even forty years

without seeing much result, and it is only by a splendid faith and hope that the workers have been able to hold on. We have not been tried in that way. We are going on by leaps and bounds. You have heard our friends speak this evening, and you have realized that they are praying men. And we not only realize that they are praying men, but feel that they have been sent by GOD ; they have a message and a purpose. In addition to our own workers we have four working with us from the United States. I do think that considering the limited period that has passed since the establishment of the work

**The Development that has taken place
is quite remarkable.**

We have accomplished something for which we can give thanks and praise to GOD, and we can congratulate Dr. Kumm on the evidence that the LORD has been with him in all his experiences

in the Mission. Let me give you an example. On one occasion a doctor was wanted. There was earnest prayer that a doctor might be sent, and where do you think he came from ? The Shetland Isles. Do not you think that was the LORD'S doing ? That man had a great power in the place where he came from. The people got up a petition forty-five feet long, beseeching him not to leave the Islands. But he has gone out to the Sudan and is doing a splendid work. Truly the LORD hath done great things, whereof we are glad.

I trust we shall give this work our sympathy and our prayers. There has been opened the way of faith, and we have gone forth in faith. The mission has as its leader a man who is a man of faith, and those who are gathering round him are men of faith. They go out not with any certified salaries ; they have no promise that they will be maintained in comfort.

They go out in faith trusting to the Lord's promise.

You have seen some illustration of their faith already. You remember the calamity that befell them in the utter destruction by fire of their central station. Some of our dear friends were out evangelizing in the district round about, and when they came back they found their home burnt down and most of their property destroyed. And yet there was not a word of murmuring. They have not told us a word about it to-night, but I have told you because I think we ought to be reminded of it. Not a murmur, not a word of discouragement ! They accept all as from the LORD. If we continue to conduct the Mission in that spirit of faith and devotion we shall, I am sure, have the Mission spreading wonderfully throughout the country and throughout the Church. We shall have a Mission gloriously supported and leading to a triumphant end.

Address by one of the Pioneer Missionaries, Mr. Maxwell.

“ Mr. Chairman and Christian friends, many of you I have no doubt have read in the “ Lightbearer ” fairly detailed and sympathetic accounts of our work. Perhaps I had better confine myself to giving you some details of its latest developments. At the time Dr. Kumm left the field in 1905, Mr. Burt went to Wukari, a place some 22 miles south of Ibi, where he was welcomed by the King, who is large of heart as well as of body. He told him he earnestly wished him to come again, and he gave him to understand that

He wanted somebody to come and tell his people about our religion.

That King, in spite of many inducements and great temptations, is still a pagan, although for years past he has had a large Mohammedan population in his kingdom. At one time it was dangerous for Mohammedans to enter his territory, but at

present there is a settlement in Wukari of about 600 Mohammedans. The Jukun tribe, of which this king is the head, is one of the most powerful tribes in Northern Nigeria. The Resident informed me that the King rules over 120 towns and villages.

The language difficulty is a very great one. The Hausa language is the one most generally understood, although a different tongue is spoken by almost every tribe, and it is no easy task to make oneself understood under these circumstances.

During our stay at Wukari we received much encouragement in our work. On one occasion I was rebuked for holding a service in a house. The man said,

'You ought to hold the service outside so that many people would hear.'

This we did, with real success.

Another encouraging incident, but one which perhaps is not of every-day

occurrence in our Mission. When we first went to Wukari the King himself with his train of followers came along to pay us a state visit. There were the Prime Minister, the High Officers of State, and the learned men. Among all that crowd there was one man whom I never thought to influence. Neither I nor my colleague, Mr. Young, thought about him. He was the one man whom we never considered as one whom the Gospel story would influence. His name was Mallam Audu, and after the King and his party had gone he came to us and engaged in conversation with us. Mr. Young and I talked with him, and he came again time after time. Even then it never struck me what he kept coming for until one morning, after the usual salutations, he sat down and said, 'I want to hear the story of JESUS.' He was a most intelligent and educated man. The questions he asked and the answers he gave showed that he clearly comprehended, and at last he said,

‘I want to follow Christ’

You can imagine what my feelings were.

I questioned him further until I became morally certain that he was a converted man—a man who believed in the ‘LAMB OF GOD which taketh away the sin of the world.’ But although he acknowledged CHRIST, there were difficulties in his path. His father was a bigoted Mohammedan, and would not, of course, hear of any public confession. Mallam Audu was one of the most influential men in the town, not even excepting the King himself. He arranged the business and the government of the whole place, whilst the King was only a sort of Great Seal, so to speak, to register the decisions of his Minister.

He came to me one day in great trouble, saying that his father would not hear of his following CHRIST. He had also trouble with his wife, but he cared most about his father, who was nearly 100 years old ; and asked me what he

was to do. I helped him and strengthened him as well as I could, and prayed that he might be kept true. After a time his father died, and so that difficulty was removed.

But Mallam Audu needs your prayers.

He is alone in that town surrounded by Mohammedanism, the only witness for CHRIST. We had to leave soon after his conversion, and I have not been able to see him since. I would intercede with you for him. When you are praying, will you remember him? He has no one to teach him. Please consider him in your prayers, and ask GOD to keep him steadfast, and an earnest witness for his LORD and SAVIOUR.

May I put before you one aspect of the Mohammedan danger which does not receive much attention. The splendid garments and social exclusiveness of the Mohammedans appeal to the pagans, and the desire comes to imitate and copy the Mohammedans, and thus secure the

same social privileges. There is also special danger in the case of the children. We have to remember that wherever the Moslem is there is great danger to the Christian faith. I ask you to pray for us with the assurance that GOD will answer your prayers. We go out to work for CHRIST in this vast field. The feeling of responsibility is very great. We wish for your help, for your prayers, and for your sympathy. We ask you to share our responsibility, and help us bear our burden for CHRIST'S sake."

**A Message to Christians from the
Workers in the Dark Sudan.**

This is the message that I would have communicated to Great Britain and the Christians of the whole world. Africa now stands as the testing link of the chain of efficacy of your most Holy Faith. Europe, Asia, America and Australia have stood in proof of its strength ; and now in Africa, in Central Africa, are culminated the whole force

of the hosts of Devilry, vice, and subterfuge. On this great plain is assembled the pick of principalities and powers, oncoming with ever-augmented vehemence as the shock is felt. Let men at home put off perorations and put on prayer; and we out here, vain trappings, and trust in strength of arm. Should Africa be lost, the costliest diadem of the heavenly crown would be wanting, and JESUS' work could not be perfect.

F. AUST.



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SUDAN UNITED MISSION.

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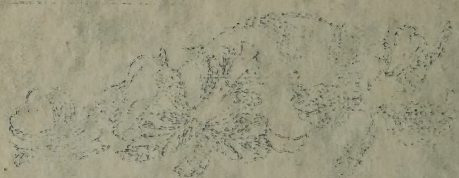
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